

## LISTING OF CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled):

Claim 10 (New): A method of using a radiolucent aiming guide for locating a hole in an implanted intramedullary nail and inserting a locking screw, said method comprising the steps of:

- inserting the intramedullary nail, having at least one nail hole, into a medullary canal of a bone;

- positioning an imaging source and imaging monitor such that the imaging source is parallel to an axis of the intramedullary nail hole;

- inserting a trocar, having a longitudinal axis and a radiopaque tip at a distal end, into a protection sleeve of the radiolucent aiming guide, the radiolucent aiming guide including a pair of radiopaque pins disposed within a handle of the radiolucent aiming guide;

  - aligning the axes of the protection sleeve and the trocar with the imaging source;

  - replacing the trocar from the protection sleeve with a drill sleeve;

- inserting a drill bit through the drill sleeve and aligning the axes of the protection sleeve and drill bit with the imaging source and the intramedullary nail hole;

- accurately drilling through the intramedullary nail hole and surrounding bone material;

  - removing the drill bit and drill sleeve; and

- inserting the locking screw through the protection sleeve and screwing the locking screw through the bone material and nail hole to secure the intramedullary nail to the bone.

Claim 11 (New): A method of using a radiolucent aiming guide according to claim 10, wherein the imaging source is positioned parallel to the axis of the intramedullary nail hole when the intramedullary nail hole appears as a circle on the imaging monitor.

Claim 12 (New): A method of using a radiolucent aiming guide according to claim 11, wherein the protection sleeve, having a proximal end and a distal end, comprises:

- a substantially cylindrical, hollow body constructed substantially of a radiolucent material and having a longitudinal axis;

- a head at the proximal end of the hollow body for engaging the radiolucent aiming guide, the head being constructed substantially of a radiolucent material; and

- a tip at the distal end of the hollow body, the tip being constructed of a radiopaque material so that the tip will cast a substantially circular image on an X-ray monitor when an incident beam from the imaging source is aligned parallel to the longitudinal axis of the hollow body.

Claim 13 (New): A method of using a radiolucent aiming guide according to claim 12, wherein the axes of the protection sleeve and the trocar are aligned with the imaging source when the radiopaque tips of the protection sleeve and trocar form dark concentric circles on the imaging monitor.

Claim 14 (New): A method of using a radiolucent aiming guide according to claim 13, further comprising the step of moving the radiolucent aiming guide until the dark concentric circles cast by the radiopaque tips of the protection sleeve and trocar are centered on the image of the intramedullary nail.

Claim 15 (New): A method of using a radiolucent aiming guide according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

- pressing the protection sleeve and trocar against the bone material above the intramedullary nail hole;

- using the trocar to remove soft tissue lying above the bone material above the intramedullary nail hole; and

- embedding the tip of the protection sleeve into the surface of the bone material so as to prevent lateral displacement.

Claim 16 (New): A method of using a radiolucent aiming guide according to claim 15, wherein proper alignment of the longitudinal axes of the protection sleeve and trocar with the

imaging source is determined when images of the radiopaque pins appear to lie on either side of and equidistant from the image of the intramedullary nail.

Claim 17 (New): A method of using a radiolucent aiming guide according to claim 10, wherein the trocar has a substantially cylindrical body constructed substantially of a radiolucent material.

Claim 18 (New): A method of using a radiolucent aiming guide for locating a hole in an implanted intramedullary nail and inserting a locking screw, said method comprising the steps of:

- inserting the intramedullary nail, having at least one nail hole, into a medullary canal of a bone;

- positioning an imaging source and imaging monitor such that the imaging source is parallel to an axis of the intramedullary nail hole;

- inserting a trocar, having a longitudinal axis and a radiopaque tip at a distal end, into a protection sleeve of the radiolucent aiming guide, the radiolucent aiming guide comprising an elongated handle constructed substantially of a radiolucent material and having a longitudinal axis; the handle having a first hole for engaging a first protection sleeve, the axis of the first hole being perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the handle; and a pair of radiopaque pins disposed within the handle, the pins lying on both sides of and parallel to the longitudinal axis of the handle and lying in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the first hole;

  - aligning the axes of the protection sleeve and the trocar with the imaging source;

  - replacing the trocar from the protection sleeve with a drill sleeve;

- inserting a drill bit through the drill sleeve and aligning the axes of the protection sleeve and drill bit with the imaging source and the intramedullary nail hole;

- accurately drilling through the intramedullary nail hole and surrounding bone material;

  - removing the drill bit and drill sleeve; and

- inserting the locking screw through the protection sleeve and screwing the locking screw through the bone material and nail hole to secure the intramedullary nail to the bone.